

The Frederick Douglass Watch.



—He knows a thing.

"Hey neighbor! Hey you!! Stop a minute. I want to tell you about a watch I got the other day for a subscription to The Colored American, best thing for the money I ever saw. Every colored man and woman ought to have one. What, you don't read The Colored American? Why I should think you would. Its published by men of your race. Never heard of the Douglass watch either? Well, well!"

"Naw sah, Ah down rede no niggah papers, kase dey spile my complexion. Dey don't had no news in um nohow. Ah got sumpin' else to do 'sides wast' in mah time readin' niggah papers. Yaas Ah's heard of Fed Douglass, Ah's a orator mahself. Bukker Washington ain't no great taters.

Ah kin make a bet-ter speech an' he kin wid mah eyes shet. O Ah knows all 'bout him, you kaint tell me nuffin. Man! Go on 'way fum me, I dont wan' be pes-tered 'bout no nig-gah paper, and no Douglass watch. What he know 'bout makin' watches an' how? Yaas co'se Ah use to take dat ole papperence, it 'twar-ut no good do' every copy dat Ah got wuz des as damp as do' som-bod' don't po'd watch on it."

"Mebbe there was a sum due on it, my friend."

"Somef'n dew on it, Eh? Of co'se dey wuz and dat why Ah stopped it. Den agin de E'ditor nurer done de squar t'ing by me, he ruver written nuffin 'bout me, aldo' Ah red his ole paperever week, Ah ain't never bin written up yit. Pay him! Me pay dat niggah!! Who me!!! Look sheah man, does ah 'zemble a ferlamb pilbist. Does Ah look lak one o' dem men as goes up an' down de yearth a hunting f'r somebody to give he good money to?"

"Well, come to think, I should say no! You look like the headwaiter of a s'up house who had passed through a Western cyclone. You look cheap and seedy, and I guess you are as cheap as you look."

"Look sheah! Yo' nasty, stinkin' po' white trash, who yo' 'sultin? doant yo' cast none o' yo' inflections on mah charac-ter, doant yo' 'timidate me sah, ef yo' do sah we sho' will mix up. Ah want yo' unnerstan' Ahm a gentyman sah. I see a orator of de Gospel an' Ah doant low no plague gone po' white man to 'sult me sah, an' ef yo' 'sult me agin sah Ah'll pussecute yo' to de full contempt o' de law, yo' heah me!"

"O you are not so dangerous, good day Mr. Brown."

"Honies, Ahm dis as happy dis mawnin', ah ez ah looks, ah bin trab-lin' up an' down dese heah low grouns et sorer fer de parst fo'teen yeers on borrowed time an' dis mawnin' ah's

de owner of mah own time. Ah ain't niver been able honiesence ah bin de shepard o' dis flock fer to buy me a watch. Yo' all doin' de best yo' kin, ah knows dat yo' all got mo' grace dan money, but ah fines dat wile grace am a good t'ing for desole, it 'tain' 'zackly up to de stan'ard ez currency in de meat market, an' de cole yahd, an' de grocery man's. Dey's all lookin' for sometin' green er yellor er white in 'xchange fer dey goods, an' any brack man what t'ink he gwine pass tro' dis



DR. JULIUS CAESAR INKSPOT.

here worl' on grace er love am seberal kinds of a fool. De hime say:

"Grace am a chawmin' soun'

Hermoyous to de year.

It smoooves ouah sorriers,

Hee's ouah wounds

An' wipes away ouah teers."

An' 'honies, dars whar grace stops. Enny time 'at yo' tries to buy er chick en or a shoat, er a ton er cole, er a ham er a sute er clo'es wid yo' little bit o' grace yo'll fin' out dat wile its better dan money, its diffunt. We bracks has a powahful site o' grace an' dats 'bout all we has got. Aldo' Ah kin say fo' mahself dat dar have bin a 'culiar 'an 'sterious manufustation of de power of prayah in mah own case, an Ah gwine try to'splain it to yo' all dis mawnin'."

Fer de past fo'teen years yo' all know 'at Ah bin ministerin' to yo' spearit- chule wants, Ah bin wid yo' when yo' wuz down in de walley, an' when yo' wuz on de mounting tops Ah wuz dar also. Amen!—A-men!! Aldo' de Scrip- tures say 'at de lah'rer am wurthy of his hiah. Yo' all knows dat dis lah'rer isn't seen de color o' yo' money fer de parst nine munts. Sum o' yo' bred- der'n has sarnt cord wood to de pahsan- age, sum un yo' has sarnt taters, sum un yo' has sarnt dat wuz a little ripper dan Ah laks it, an' aigs dat mout a bin fresh once. Ah kaint say dat Ah's bin so powahfully 'pressed wid de grade 'o homemade buttah dat a suttin good sistah's bin a sendin' me for nigh onto a year parst. The po't symewhar says: "Dat de rancid ob de Lawd Shill return an' come to Zion."

WITHOUT A WATCH.

It mought be dat, dat sistah in send- in' me dat buttah sm moved by a'zire to git me in Zion 'fore my a pinted time. Ef de po't am right ah spec's fer to meet dat buttah in Zion on dat gittin' up mawnin' arter ah has boun' mah sheeves togedder an' shout de harvest home. Amen! A-men!

"Ez ah wer sayin' dar hav' bin er 'culiar manufustation o' de powah o' pra'r in mah case. Fo' fo'teen years ah been 'thout a watch; no 'spectable congregation would erlow its parster to be 'thout a watch. But yo' all is diffunt, yo' isn't 'sponsible fo' yo' on- responsibility. Yo's willin' but yo' yo' caint telegraf to Headquarters an' git er answer bacd quick lak yo' parster. Ah wuz a settin' in mah study long 'bout a week ago mejitatin' on de trials of de saints dat has bin snatched ez brans fum de eternal burning. ah, an' who should along but Sistah Cah- line Gadsby wid a bucket er chitline and some nice spare ribs fer her parster, an' some noosepapers. sayin' dat hub boy Ebn what libs in Washington don' sont huh a whole passel er de papers to 'tribute 'mongst de frens in de nabor-

hood. She 'low dat fo' she 'gin eny dem papers erway she want her parster to 'zamine em fust an' see dat dey is all right, kase she bin hear dat dar wuz a'gah dimocrat papers somewhar in dis kentry an' she warn' gwine 'stribute none if she knowed it, kase she hated de naim d mocrat wus'n a dost of pizen. So ah s-z to Sistah Gadsby sez I, 'lemme see dem papers honey,' an' wid dat she recht under her shawl an' fotch de bundle out ergin an' ah 'zamine one un em. (Ahm a great reader ez yo' all know, an' ahm de only parster in dese parts 'at kin read de Bibul in de 'riginal tongue. Ah ought to bin a L.L. D., but 'fessional jealousy kept me out'n it so ahs only a plain Dr. But dats neither heah no 'heah, yo'all knows ahm a scholar 'thout my tellin' of yo') De paper Sis- tah Gadsby brung was de Washin'ton Kullud 'American, printed by a ole college chum o' mine, 'Fessor Cooper. Soon ez ah seen dat name at de baid o' eddytorial kolomes, ah sed to Sistah Gadsby, sez ah, 'Dis heah paper is all rite, its 'publican fum stam to stern 'Stribute em my sistah fer it preaches de gospel o' freedom an' is agin dimo- crate des lak we is.' 'Praise de Lawd fer dat," sez Sistah Gadsby, 'I knowd Ephum knowd what he were a doin'. Rev you take one for yourself,' sez she and she gin me a copy wid a pictur' of a big colored man on de front page 'at owes me fo' dollars for 'ficiating at his wedding 7 year ago.

Ah thanked Sistah Gadsby for de nice mess o' chitlins an' de spare ribs an' de paper, an' den we had a word 'o pra'r an' den we sung a hime an' she went out 'jolein'.

Arter she left Ah sot down in my easy cheer an' ah des 'et dat dat paper up. Why it were de beatnest paper ah uver did see. Ah seed a peece in it 'bout de Fed Douglass watch wid a pictur' of de watch wid Fed Douglas pictur' on it. Ah read dat peece: three times, den ah said to mahself, 'Lawd ah isnt got no money an' you knows dat dese po' bracks heah doant even know what money looks like. But ah wants one o' dem watches, ah sho' do.' Den a sperit said to me 'write!' Ah wheeled around to mah desk an' ah written a frenly letter to Brer Coop- er 'minding of our college days, tellin' him of my 'barrased financial condi- tion, dat ah'd read dat peece 'bout de Fed Douglass watch in his paper an' would lak monstous well to hav' one but was too po' an' mah people wuz po' des lak me. Well honies in less dan a week ah got a answer back fum 'Fessor Cooper tellin' me how glad he were to hear fum his ole collige ehum, 'viting me to come to Washington an' visit him for a munt, an' sayin' dat he would be glad to introjue me to de Pres dent, etc., etc. Den down—way down at de bottom of dat letter wuz dese words: "P. S. Ah is sendin' yo' on a seprit cover per an exprese one o' dem Fed Douglass watches war' it wid my komperments an' think o' me ez time parses. Affectionally yours

Eddie."

Dat wuz de name we use to call nim at collige, an' here's de watch! If dat warn't a 'culiar an' 'sterious manufus- tation o' de powah of prar what is? Amen! A-men!! A-men!!!

Ah wants to tell yo' another thing honies. Dis heah watch keeps ez good time ez eny watch in dis neck o' de woods. Po' ez ah is an' anxious ez ah is jest to see some money sence ah caint git mah hans on none ah d-o-a-nt think ah'd take fifty dollars fer dis watch de way ah feels now.

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